



**DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS
2 NAVY ANNEX
WASHINGTON, DC 20380-1775**

IN REPLY REFER TO:

LFL
29 Sep 99

WHITE LETTER NO. 03-99

From: Commandant of the Marine Corps
To: All General Officers
All Commanding Officers
All Officers in Charge

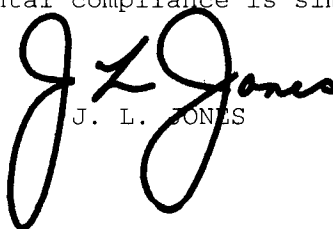
Subj: ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE

1. Since Congress passed the Federal Facilities Compliance Act in 1992, the Marine Corps has made significant strides in achieving and maintaining environmental compliance. While installation commanders are at the fore of this compliance effort, I expect every commander who resides or trains on an installation to actively support that installation's environmental compliance and protection programs. All Marine commanders should emphasize environmental awareness and incorporate environmental compliance into every aspect of how they conduct business, taking affirmative steps to make compliance happen.

2. A disturbing trend has emerged in recent months that I need your assistance in curtailing. Historically, administrative types of violations such as record-keeping and house-keeping mistakes have been minimal. During the past year, however, these types of violations have significantly increased. Practically all of these violations are preventable through attention to detail and appropriate awareness.

3. The environmental regulations that apply to Marine Corps operations in many states are increasing and environmental inspectors are quick to cite violators. The Marine Corps cannot afford the cost of environmental inattention. In this era of constrained resources, every dollar spent to pay for fines or litigation costs resulting from noncompliance is one less dollar available to train our Marines. Marine Corps policy requires units responsible for violations to pay environmental fines from O&M accounts. We have been fortunate not to receive any large fines recently, and I encourage your vigilance to ensure that we continue to improve our excellent performance.

4. In my initial guidance, I stated that we cannot mortgage the future of our installations and continue to meet our requirements. Part of ensuring the sustainability of our installations and training areas is continued compliance with environmental laws and a good working relationship with the communities that surround us. Our goal is to meet the challenge of training our Marine Corps while exercising stewardship of the land, air, and waters entrusted to us by the citizens we are pledged to protect. In meeting this goal, failure to achieve environmental compliance is simply not an option.


J. L. JONES